

Message Text

SECRET

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61

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SCA-01 SCS-03 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 H-03 /043 W

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R 301944Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8413

S E C R E T PANAMA 4646

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, PN, CU

SUBJ: VILLA CASE

REF: STATE 168127

1. ATTORNEY AROSEMENA VISITED CONOFF AUGUST 29 AND STATED ORIGINAL CHARGES WERE DISMISSED BY APPEALS COURT IN DECREE ISSUED AUGUST 14, 1973. SAME DECREE CALLS FOR DEEPER INVESTIGATION INTO ALL FACTS OF CASE. ATTORNEY EXPECTS ORIGINAL CHARGES TO BE RE-FILED AFTER INVESTIGATION COMPLETED AND SPECULATES VILLA MIGHT BE FREE TO LEAVE R. P. BY NOVEMBER IF HE (ATTORNEY) PRESSES HARD FOR RELEASE. ATTORNEY ARGUING THAT TIME SPENT IN CUBAN PRISON SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN COMPUTATION OF TIME ALREADY SPENT IN PRISON BUT NO DECISION YET REACHED BY COURT. ATTORNEY FEELS ENTIRE CASE COMPLICATED BY POLITICAL ASPECTS WHICH PREVENT RAPID RESOLUTION OF CASE. HE FURTHER STATED DISMISSAL OF ORIGINAL CHARGES LEAVES GOP WITHOUT LEGAL BASIS FOR CONFISCATION OF TWO SHIPS.

2. ATTORNEY SAYS LLOYDS OF LONDON HAS SETTLED WITH OWNERS OF SHIPS BUT HE HAD NOT BEEN AWARE THAT INSURANCE PROBLEMS COULD BE DELAYING CASE. EMBASSY BELIEVES PRESENT INVESTIGATION AND POSSIBILITY OF CHARGES BEING REFILED (PARA. 1) COULD BE PRETEXT TO PROVIDE LEGAL BASIS FOR HOLDING OF SHIPS.

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3. ATTORNEY STATED VILLA CLAIMS TO BE FEELING WELL AND HAS REFUSED TO SEE DOCTOR IN PANAMA FOR ELECTROCARDIAGRAM. VILLA VISITED ATTORNEY IN PANAMA ONE WEEK AGO AND AGAIN REFUSED MEDICAL CHECK UP. VILLA HAS SEEN DOCTOR IN SANTIAGO FOR TREATMENT OF PAINS IN ARM. ATTORNEY GAVE VILLA \$30.00 LAST WEEK AND CUBAN FRIEND OF VILLA FAMILY TRIED TO ARRANGE EMPLOYMENT FOR VILLA AT LA VICTORIA SUGAR REFINERY IN SANTIAGO BUT VILLA NOT INTERESTED IN ACCEPTING EMPLOYMENT WITH GOP.

4. AMBASSADOR, AT CONVENIENT TIME, WILL DISCUSS CASE AGAIN WITH FOREIGN MINISTER OR TORRIJOS AS DECISIONS IN CASE APPARENTLY BEING MADE AT HIGHEST LEVELS.
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Message Attributes

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